

Citizen Resolution

130 716

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Restore State Funding to State Parks

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.
7. Resolutions must be 250 words or less exclusive of the title and author contact information. (This guidance is not included in the word count.)

The Problem:

The last state budget proposed an increase in fees for State Park use permits such as park stickers, camping, and use fees, and it removed state funding to the parks. Because current fees already are high enough to eliminate or discourage low income state residents from using the parks, the new budget will make it more difficult or impossible for many state residents to enjoy land that belongs to all state residents.

Also, to keep parks financially stable, it would be against the principles of preserving a natural experience to solve the parks' budget problems by putting in hotels, restaurants, and other pay-to-use non-nature activities, whether by the state or private companies. Also, privatizing various existing park operations to decrease state expenditures would likely end up increasing prices for the user.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Dane County on April 11, 2016 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the state to keep the public park lands affordable to all by continuing to fund the State Park system by the State using general revenue funds and not raising fees.

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Signature: _____

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